

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, Line 3, before this line insert the following paragraph .
and paragraph headings:

RELATED APPLICATION:

This application is a continuation (divisional) application of my
co-pending application Ser. No.09/000,900 filed November 15, 2001
under 35 USC 120, THE ENTIRE DISCLOSURE OF WHICH IS CONSIDERED AS
BEING PART OF THE DISCLOSURE OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION AND
IS HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE HEREIN IN ITS ENTIRETY.

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, Line 32, before this line insert the following paragraph
heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, Line 37, delete the bottom two line paragraph on this
page starting on line 37:

~~This object is achieved by the invention specified in the claims.~~

Page 2, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the
following rewritten paragraph:

~~Claim 1 achieves the~~ The stated object is achieved initially and
substantially when the membrane is a hotmelt adhesive film
applied hot directly to the carrier. According to the invention,

a separate adhesive can be dispensed with, since the membrane is formed by the adhesive itself. Unlike in the prior art, however, the hot adhesive is applied as a film to the carrier. Application is effected in the hot state, so that a uniform, intimate bond ensues between the hot adhesive film and the carrier. The carrier is preferably a sheetlike structure which is air pervious or has been rendered air pervious, for example a nonwoven. The carrier can consist of PP, PET or PE. It has been determined that, surprisingly, the mere laminating with the filmlike adhesive provides water vapour transmission rates of more than 120 g/m²/24 hours. The carrier can be a textile nonwoven having a basis weight of 10 to 150 g/m². It is considered particularly advantageous for the hot adhesive film to be pressed into the interstitial spaces in the fissured carrier. This measure increases the water vapour transmission rate by a further factor of 6. It is further advantageous for the hot adhesive to penetrate into the voids in the carrier. The individual fibres of a carrier nonwoven can then be adhered together. The hotmelt adhesive film can be positioned between two water and vapour pervious carrier materials, for example textile nonwovens. One nonwoven then forms a base nonwoven. The other forms a top nonwoven. The material properties of the hotmelt adhesive are preferably chosen so that a surface tension of less than 20 mN/m is obtained. In a further development of the invention, a reinforcing grid can be disposed between the top nonwoven and the hotmelt adhesive film. The top nonwoven or the hotmelt adhesive film can further be covered with metal platelets or glass balloon dust. But it is also possible to aluminize the top nonwoven or the hotmelt adhesive film by the vapour deposition process. Furthermore, the hotmelt adhesive film can have an SAP embedded into it or applied to it on one side, for example extremely expandable, gel-forming and crosslinking acrylic acid polymers.

Page 3, Line 27, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, Line 20, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Page 7, Line 4, delete the paragraph on this page starting on line 4:

~~All features disclosed are in themselves pertinent to the invention. The disclosure of the application hereby also fully incorporates the disclosure content of the related, accompanying priority documents (copy of the prior application), partly with a view to including features of these documents in claims of the present application.~~